

THE FOLLOWING IS THE ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF THE
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS OF THE INTERNATIONAL
APPLICATION UNDER PCT ARTICLE 19:
AMENDED SHEETS (Pages 66, 67, 68 and 69).

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Claims (Amended)

[Received by International Bureau on 04.12.2000. Claims 1, 2, 8, 9, 15, and 16 have as originally filed have been amended.

The other claims remain unchanged. (3 pages)]

1. (Amended) A cholesterol-lowering agent containing, as an active ingredient, at least one yeast belonging to *Issatchenkia*, *Hanseniaspora*, *Kloeckera*, *Kluyveromyces*, *Pichia*, or *Torulaspora*.

2. (Amended) A cholesterol-lowering agent containing, as an active ingredient, at least one yeast selected from among *Issatchenkia orientalis*, *Hanseniaspora uvarum*, *Kloeckera africana*, *Kluyveromyces marxianus*, *Kluyveromyces lactis*, *Pichia farinosa*, and *Torulaspora delbrueckii*.

3. Foods and drinks for reducing cholesterol containing a yeast as recited in claim 1 or 2.

4. A secondary bile acid production inhibitor containing a yeast as an active ingredient.

5. A secondary bile acid production inhibitor according to claim 4, wherein the yeast is at least one species selected from among *Issatchenkia*, *Kluyveromyces*, *Hanseniaspora*, *Saccharomyces*, *Hyphopichia*, *Candida*, *Torulaspora*, *Pichia*, and *Zygosaccharomyces*.

6. A secondary bile acid production inhibitor according to claim 4, wherein the yeast is at least one species selected from among *Issatchenkia orientalis*, *Kluyveromyces marxianus*, *Kluyveromyces lactis*, *Kluyveromyces thermotolerans*, *Hanseniaspora uvarum*, *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, *Saccharomyces*

dairensis, *Saccharomyces exiguus*, *Saccharomyces unisporus*, *Saccharomyces bayanus*, *Hyphopichia burtonii*, *Candida kefir*, *Candida etchellsii*, *Candida zeylanoides*, *Candida solani*, *Candida maltosa*, *Candida tropicalis*, *Candida cylindracea*, *Candida utilis*, *Torulaspora delbrueckii*, *Pichia anomala*, *Pichia holstii*, and *Zygosaccharomyces rouxii*.

7. A foods and drink for inhibiting secondary bile acid production containing a yeast as recited in any one of claims 4 to 6.

8. (Amended) Use, in the production of a cholesterol-lowering agent, of at least one yeast belonging to *Candida*, *Issatchenkia*, *Hanseniaspora*, *Kloeckera*, *Kluyveromyces*, *Pichia*, or *Torulaspora*.

9. Use, in the production of a cholesterol-lowering agent, of at least one yeast selected from among *Issatchenkia orientalis*, *Hanseniaspora uvarum*, *Kloeckera africana*, *Kluyveromyces marxianus*, *Kluyveromyces lactis*, *Pichia farinosa*, and *Torulaspora delbrueckii*.

10. Use of a yeast as recited in claim 1 or 2 in the production of a food and drink for reducing cholesterol.

11. Use of a yeast in the production of a secondary bile acid procution inhibitor.

12. Use according to claim 11, wherein the yeast is at least one species selected frcm amcnrg *Issatchenkia*, *Kluyveromyces*, *Hanseniaspora*, *Saccharomyces*, *Hyphopichia*, *Candida*, *Torulaspora*, *Pichia*, and *Zygcsaccharomyces*.

13. Use of a yeast in the production of a secondary

bile acid production inhibitor according to claim 11, wherein the yeast is at least one species selected from among *Issatchenkia orientalis*, *Kluyveromyces marxianus*, *Kluyveromyces lactis*, *Kluyveromyces thermotolerans*, *Hanseniaspora uvarum*, *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, *Saccharomyces dairensis*, *Saccharomyces exiguus*, *Saccharomyces unisporus*, *Saccharomyces bayanus*, *Hyphopichia burtonii*, *Candida kefyr*, *Candida etchellsii*, *Candida zeylanoides*, *Candida solani*, *Candida maltosa*, *Candida tropicalis*, *Candida cylindracea*, *Candida utilis*, *Torulaspora delbrueckii*, *Pichia anomala*, *Pichia holstii*, *Pachiticospora transverensis*, and *Zygosaccharomyces rouxii*.

14. Use, in the production of a food or drink for inhibiting secondary bile acid production, of a yeast as recited in any one of claims 11 to 13.

15. (Amended) A treatment method for reducing cholesterol, comprising administration of at least one yeast belonging to *Issatchenkia*, *Hanseniaspora*, *Kloeckera*, *Kluyveromyces*, *Pichia*, or *Torulaspora*.

16. (Amended) A treatment method for reducing cholesterol, comprising administration of at least one yeast selected from among *Issatchenkia orientalis*, *Hanseniaspora uvarum*, *Kloeckera africana*, *Kluyveromyces marxianus*, *Kluyveromyces lactis*, *Pichia farinosa*, and *Torulaspora delbrueckii*.

17. A treatment method for inhibiting secondary bile acid production, comprising administration of a yeast.

18. A method according to claim 17, wherein the yeast is at least one species selected from among *Issatchenkia*, *Kluyveromyces*, *Hanseniaspora*, *Saccharomyces*, *Hyphopichia*, *Candida*, *Torulaspora*, *Pichia*, and *Zygosaccharomyces*.

19. A method according to claim 17, wherein the yeast is at least one species selected from among *Issatchenkia orientalis*, *Kluyveromyces marxianus*, *Kluyveromyces lactis*, *Kluyveromyces thermotolerans*, *Hanseniaspora uvarum*, *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, *Saccharomyces dairensis*, *Saccharomyces exiguus*, *Saccharomyces unisporus*, *Saccharomyces bayanus*, *Hyphopichia burtonii*, *Candida kefyr*, *Candida etchellsii*, *Candida zeylanoides*, *Candida solani*, *Candida maltosa*, *Candida tropicalis*, *Candida cylindracea*, *Candida utilis*, *Torulaspora delbrueckii*, *Pichia anomala*, *Pichia holstii*, *Pachiticospora transverensis*, and *Zygosaccharomyces rouxii*.